

Seventh Regiment Armory
Between Lexington and Park Avenues,
and East 66th and East 67th Streets
(643 Park Avenue)
New York
New York County
New York

HABS No. NY-6295

HABS
NY,
31-N&YO,
121-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013-7127

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

SEVENTH REGIMENT ARMORY

HABS No. NY-6295

Location: 643 Park Avenue, New York, New York County, New York

USGS Central Park Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator
coordinates: 18/587260.4513200

Significance: The Seventh Regiment Armory is significant for being the first true armory built in Manhattan, for its distinctive high Victorian design and interiors to which many notable architects and designers contributed, and for housing a well-known and long-standing volunteer military unit.

Description: The main block of this castellated Gothic revival building faces on Park Avenue and is four stories tall, with a fifth story set back from the front facade and a one-story drill shed to the rear. The walls are made of brick and are trimmed with granite. Minor alterations carried out from 1910-1911 include the removal of a belfry from the central tower, the addition of a fourth story, the remodelling of the third floor, and the insertion of two mezzanine floors into the administration building on the side facing the drill room. Another story was added in 1930 to the administration building. In 1948, the woodwork in the Colonel's Reception Room was reworked and extended.

Included in the administration building are spaces for ten companies, a library (now known as the Trophy Room), a council chamber, a veteran corps room, a reception room, staff rooms, and a large drill hall. The interior is especially noteworthy for its beautifully carved woodwork. Each company was allowed to commission the design for its own room, which resulted in great competition to have the best decor. The most lavish room, however, is the Veterans Corps (or Tiffany) Room, designed by Louis Comfort Tiffany and Company, which shortly thereafter became known as Associated Artists. Tiffany retained Stanford White as architectural consultant for that room, and for the adjoining library (Trophy Room).

History: Completed in 1880, the Seventh Regiment Armory was designed by Charles W. Clinton, a veteran of the Seventh Regiment who trained in the offices of Richard Upjohn. The Regiment was formed in 1806, and served the Department of the Army with distinction until 1970. Today the Regiment consists of about 1300 men and is known as the 42nd Infantry Brigade. The armory continues to be used for military as well as non-military purposes.

Source: Pitts, Carolyn. Seventh Regiment Armory. National Historic Landmark nomination, 1986.

Historian: Holly K. Chamberlain, HABS, June 1988.

ADDENDUM TO:
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